

Kentucky Department of Education
Science Adoption 2008-2014

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	Kentucky Experience Science Comprehensive Package				
	Type - P2	Author - Badders, Carnine, Jeanpierre, Feliciani, Sumners, Valentino, Poore			
	Copyright - 2009	Edition - 1st	Readability - 4.61 SSR Spache		
	Course - Elementary Science		Grade(s) - 4		
	Teacher Edition ISBN if applicable			9780618966110	

Overall Recommendation:

☒ **Recommended as Basal**

Overall Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

Based on the evidence in the teachers edition and the reader, the standards were thoroughly addressed. Although the teachers guide was initially difficult to navigate, once mastered it would become an essential part of a rich curriculum. Overall, we found the package to be highly motivational, user friendly (once mastered) and engaging activities for diverse learners. Core content and DOKs thoroughly addressed at the end of each section adding to easy planning and student retention.

CRITERIA

This basal resource ...

A. Encompasses KY Content Standards & Grade Level Expectations

☒ **Strong Evidence**
☐ **Moderate Evidence**
☐ **Little or No Evidence**

☐ Text is designed to be used in an elective course outside the Program of Studies

1) Includes the 7 Big Ideas of science to the following extent:

- | | |
|---|---|
| a) Structure and Transformation of Matter | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strong <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Little <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| b) Motion and Forces | <input type="checkbox"/> Strong <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Little <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| c) The Earth and the Universe | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strong <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Little <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| d) Unity and Diversity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strong <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Little <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| e) Biological Change | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strong <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Little <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| f) Energy Transformation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strong <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Little <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| g) Interdependence | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strong <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Little <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |

2) Addresses content-specific enduring understandings from the related Program of Studies standards.

☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little ☐ N/A

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3) **Addresses content-specific skills and concepts from the related Program of Studies standards.** ☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little ☐ N/A

4) **Content addressed is current, relevant and non-trivial** ☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little ☐ N/A

5) **Provides opportunities for critical thinking/reasoning** ☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little ☐ N/A

6) **Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:**

- Specific strengths-which areas/concepts are covered exceptionally well?
- Specific weaknesses-which areas/concepts would likely require supplementing?

In the Motions and Forces content area, there is extended content information. It was difficult to find investigation activities for pushes and pulls. There are strong weather connections. The life science is very well aligned with the standards.

B. Functionality & Suitability

☒ **Strong Evidence**
☐ **Moderate Evidence**
☐ **Little or No Evidence**

1) **Suitability** ☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little ☐ N/A

- Should be suitable for use with a diverse population and is free of bias regarding race, age, ethnicity, gender, religion, social and/or geographic environment; is free of stereotyping or bias of any kind.

2) **Content quality** ☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little ☐ N/A

- Free from factual errors
- Content is presented conceptually when possible—more than a mere collection of facts
- Content included accurately represents the knowledge base of the discipline
- Theories/scientific models contained represent a broad consensus of the scientific community

3) **Connections to Literacy** ☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little
Note: may apply to either student or teacher editions

- Employs a variety of reading levels and is grade/level appropriate
- Contains pre, during, post reading activities
- Provides opportunities for summarizing, reviewing, and reinforcing vocabulary skills and concepts at multiple levels of difficulty for a variety of learning styles.
- Student text provides opportunity to integrate reading and writing
- Uses vocabulary that is age and content appropriate
- Focuses on critical vocabulary vs. extensive lists
- Identifies key vocabulary through definitions in both text and glossary
- Engaging text- does the text facilitate learning?
- Does understanding the text require having performed the imbedded activities?

4) **Connections to Technology** ☐ Strong ☒ Moderate ☐ Little

- Integrates technology and reflects the impact of technological advances

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- Uses technology in the collection and/or manipulation of authentic data

5) Support for Diverse Learners

☐ Strong ☒ Moderate ☐ Little

- Provides support for ESL students
- Provides support for differentiation of instruction in diverse classrooms

Note: may apply only to teacher edition

6) Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

- Reviewers may provide page numbers to point out specific strong examples for individual evaluation standards.

There were a couple of concerns with the teaching resources, the material that addresses diverse learning needs seems to be exclusively in the ELL Resources. Technology is weak, there are opportunities to see the reading connections online and there is a test generator, no other evidence of links to technology was evident. There were excellent real-life analogies throughout.

C. Supports Inquiry and Skill Development

☒ Strong Evidence
☐ Moderate Evidence
☐ Little or No Evidence

1) Promotes Inquiry, research and Application of Learning

☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little

- Provides opportunities for inquiry and research that includes activities such as self-selecting topics, formulating authentic questions, gathering information, researching resources, observing, interviewing, and evaluating information, analyzing and synthesizing data and communicating findings and conclusions.
- Requires students to use higher-level cognitive skills (analysis, synthesis, evaluation, etc.)
- Provides activities and projects for students to deepen their knowledge and cultivate and strengthen problem-solving and decision-making skills.
- Provides opportunities for application of learned concepts.
- Uses a variety of relevant charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines, and other illustrations to invite and motivate students to engage in discussion, problem solving, and other high-order thinking skills.
- Emphasizes conceptual understandings that invite students to predict, conclude, evaluate, develop and extend ideas to support reasoning.

Note: may apply to either teacher or student edition

2) Skill Development

☐ Strong ☒ Moderate ☐ Little

- Provides opportunities to make sense of data
- Provides opportunities for critical thinking and reasoning (analyze arguments, distinguish fact/opinion, recognize bias)
- Provides opportunities to examine a range of types of evidence
- Contains embedded activities (or extensions) that emphasize use of technology for problem solving

Note: may apply to either teacher or student edition

3) Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

Evidence of copious application of data from graphs and charts which requires higher levels of cognition. Real life applications are clear and easy to understand. Little evidence of technology throughout activities.

D. Supports Best Practices of Teaching and Learning

☒ Strong Evidence
☐ Moderate Evidence
☐ Little or No Evidence

1) Engages Students

☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little

- Includes content geared to the needs, interests, and abilities of students
- Engages and motivates students using components such as real-life situations, simulations, experiments, and data gathering.
- Includes information and activities that assist students in seeing relevance of concepts (where appropriate) to their own lives and experiences
- Provides a variety of strategies, activities, and materials to enhance student learning at the appropriate learning levels
- Activities are truly congruent to the concepts addressed, not merely correlated

Note: may apply to either teacher or student edition

2) Uses Assessment to Inform Instruction

☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little

- Includes multiple means of assessment as an integral part of instruction
- Provides evaluation measures in the teacher edition that supports differentiated learning activities
- Embedded assessments reflect a variety of Depth of Knowledge levels

Note: may apply to either teacher or student edition

3) Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

- Reviewers may provide page numbers to point out specific strong examples for individual evaluation standards

Lots of evidence of engaging and rich activities, especially the identified Investigate Activities. There are embedded assessments to address DOK in the reader at the end of each section and throughout the student reader and teacher's edition.

E. Has an Organization/ Format that Supports Learning and Teaching

☐ Strong Evidence
☒ Moderate Evidence
☐ Little or No Evidence

1) Organizational Quality

☐ Strong ☒ Moderate ☐ Little

- Print and/or electronic materials present minimal barriers to learners
- Presents chapters/lessons in an organized and logical sequence
- Provides clearly stated objectives for each lesson.
- Uses text features (e.g., titles, headings, subheadings, review questions, goals, objectives, space, print, type size, color) to enhance readability.

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- Makes use of various forms of media (e.g., CD's, recordings, videos, cassette tapes, computer software, web-based components) as either student or teacher resources
- Includes clear, accurate, appropriate and clearly explained illustrations and/or graphics that reinforce content standards.
- Incorporates a glossary, footnotes, recordings, pictures, and/or tests that aid pupils and teachers in using the book effectively
- Uses grade-appropriate type size

Included media are durable, easy to use and have technical merit

- Construction appears to be durable and able to withstand normal use

2) Essential Components (beyond student and teacher text)

☒ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little

- Items identified as essential components support the learning goals and concept coverage of the basal

3) Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

- Reviewers may provide page numbers to point out specific strong examples for individual evaluation standards.

Strengths include the vocabulary cards and Investigation activities. Vocabulary was extraordinarily well presented. The teachers guide is initially difficult to navigate, the teacher will need to master the use of the "Plan at a Glance" section of the teacher guide to understand the teaching sequence. The teacher's guide is unfriendly in terms of organization, but the materials (including the reader) are rich and do a very good job of covering the content. Teachers will need to have the reader and TE to plan all lessons. The Grade Level Equipment Kit did not include the materials that the TE indicated were included. It was not adequate to complete the labs. Technological applications were scarce.

F. Has available Ancillary/ Gratis Materials

Note: The decision whether to recommend or not recommend this resource as a basal should not be influenced by Section F

☐ Strong Evidence
☐ Moderate Evidence
☒ Little or No Evidence

1) Ancillary/Gratis Materials

- Coordinates teacher resources easily with student material (e.g., accompaniments included, student pages shown, instructional technology indicated).
- Are well-organized and easy to use
- Provide substantive learning opportunities and are congruent with student learning goals
- Provide opportunities for high-level thinking, assessment, and/or problem solving

2) Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

- Reviewers may provide page numbers to point out specific strong examples for individual evaluation standards.

None available for review.